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State Preserves Carbondale Municipal Bldg.

City Hall on Historical Registry

Susan M. Zacher, National Register Coordinator of the Bureau for Historic Preservation of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Committee, has notified Carbondale Mayor Fred J. Mancuso, Carbondale Historical Society president S. Robert Powell, and Lackawanna County Commissioner Robert W. Pettinato that, as of Jan. 1, 1983, Carbondale City Hall has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Created by Act of Congress in 1966, the National Register is maintained by the National Park Service according to strict criteria. It serves as the official inventory of districts, objects, sites, buildings and structures that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture.

Carbondale City Hall, a detached masonry (brick and Pennsylvania bluestone) building in the Romanesque Revival style, is composed of a tower, a three-story and two-story wing. The building was designed by Truman I. Lacey, Binghamton, and constructed in 1893-94, under the architect's supervisor, by W.D. Stevens, Binghamton, and George H. Tryon, Carbondale. The dressed bluestone and trimmings for the building were supplied by Frank Carlucci, Scranton, from his quarry at Nicholson.

When asked his reaction to the listing of City Hall on the National Register, Powell, who heads the local Historical Society which had actively campaigned for the listing, stated, "This is wonderful news. Carbondale City Hall is one of the most important buildings in Northeastern Pennsylvania. We are very pleased that the architectural and historical significance of City Hall has been acknowledged on the national level."

Powell also stated now that the building has been officially listed on the National Register, a 25 percent investment tax credit will be available to the owners of the building who do certified rehabilitation. Powell indicated that he is very optimistic that the building will now be completely restored.

"Historic buildings in a community are tangible links with the nation's past," said Powell, "helping to provide a sense of identity and stability that is most often missing in this era of constant change. By highlighting a community's roots and unique character, historic preservation rein forces the tradiational American values of neighborhood and family."

According to the Society, the present day building is actually Carbondale's third City Hall. A rectangular wooden building in the Greek Revival style was erected in 1852 on the site now occupied by the two-story wing of the present structure.

This building was destroyed by fire on February 14, 1860, and was replaced by the two-story brick building which served as City Hall until 1893. That structure was incorporated into the design of the new building and is an integral part of the present day City Hall.